

Absolute and Relative URL

An absolute URL contains more information than a relative URL does. Relative URLs are more convenient because they are shorter and often more portable. However, you can use them only to reference links on the same server as the page that contains them.

Linking with absolute URLs

An absolute URL typically takes the following form:

```
protocol://domain/path
```

The **protocol** is usually **http://**, but can also be **https://**, **ftp://**, **gopher://**, or **file://**.

The **domain** is the name of the website. For example, the domain name of Indiana University's central web server is **www.indiana.edu**. The **path** includes directory and file information. You must use absolute URLs when referring to links on different servers.

Linking with relative URLs

Relative URLs can take a number of different forms. When referring to a file that occurs in the same directory as the referring page, a URL can be as simple as the name of the file. For example, if you want to create a link in your home page to the file **foobar.html**, which is in the same directory as your home page, you would use:

```
<a href="foobar.html">The Wonderful World of Foobar!</a>
```

If the file you want to link to is in a subdirectory of the referring page's directory, you need to enter only the directory information and the name of the file. So if **foobar.html** were in the **foobar** subdirectory of your **www** directory, you could refer to it from your home page by using:

```
<a href="foobar/foobar.html">The Wonderful World of Foobar!</a>
```

If the file you want to link to is in a higher directory than the referring page, use **..**, which means to go up a directory. For example, to link from **foobar.html** to **home.html**, which is in the directory above, you would use:

```
<a href="../home.html">Go back to my home page</a>
```